

REMARKS

This Response is submitted in reply to the Office Action dated July 9, 2007. Claims 1, 3, 16, 22, 34, 42 and 52 have been amended. No new matter was added by these amendments. Claims 40 and 41 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

A Request for Continued Examination is submitted with this Response. Please charge Deposit Account No. 02-1818 for the Request for Continued Examination and any other fees due in connection with this Response.

The Office Action objected to Claim 42 because of an informality. Applicants have amended Claim 42 to create proper dependence and place this claim in condition for allowance.

The Office Action rejected Claims 1, 34 and 52 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as their invention. Specifically, the Office Action identified the phrases "first form" and "selectable form" as being indefinite and open to interpretation. Applicants have amended these and additional claims to clarify that "first form," for example, refers to a "first payout form."

The Office Action rejected Claims 1 to 39 and 42 to 58 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,511,377 to Weiss. Applicants respectfully disagree with this rejection.

Weiss is primarily directed to a cashless gaming system. A player establishes an electronic account at an enrollment station by selecting a personal identification number (PIN), depositing funds into an electronic account and receiving a player card.

Each gaming machine in Weiss includes a card reader assembly, as seen in Figs. 2 and 3 of Weiss. The card reader assembly includes a card reader, a keypad and a display. The player inserts their player card into the card reader assembly. The display then prompts the player to enter their PIN into the keypad. The gaming account system verifies the PIN and the display shows the player an option menu. The option menu includes options which if selected, allow the player to: review their electronic account balance; download a certain amount of funds to the gaming machine from their

electronic account; and upload a certain amount of credits from the gaming machine to their electronic account. Fig. 8 of Weiss illustrates a player's options in one embodiment of the Weiss gaming machine when credits remain on the gaming machine credit meter. As illustrated in Fig. 8, the player's options are to: (a) transfer the credits to their electronic account through the card reader keypad by entering their PIN; (b) remove their card without transferring credits to their electronic account; or (c) abandon their card. Importantly, note in Fig. 8 of Weiss, that if a player removes their card without transferring credits to their electronic account, the credits remaining on the machine are subject to play independent of the removal of the card. In other words, in this embodiment of the Weiss gaming machine, the way for a player to retain credits remaining on the gaming machine, in accordance with the cashless system, is to enter their PIN and transfer credits to their account.

If the player does ultimately wish to redeem their electronic account balance, the player may visit a **redemption apparatus**. The **redemption apparatus** (not the gaming machine) includes a touch screen interface allowing a player to access their account balance and redeem their balance for cash and/or vouchers with their player card. (See Weiss, Figs. 4 and 4A; column 19, line 59 to column 20, line 38).

The gaming device of amended independent Claim 1 includes **a cashout menu** selectively displayed by a display device when a player selects an input device, the cashout menu enabling the player to request **both** a payout to the player of a first amount of a certain credit total displayed by the display device in a first payout form **and** a transfer of a second amount of the certain credit total to a casino account, wherein the first payout form is different than the casino account and the first and second amounts are both deducted from the certain credit total.

Applicants have amended Claim 1 for further clarification and Applicants reiterate that Weiss does not disclose **a cashout menu** which enables the player to request **both** a payout to the player of a first amount of a certain credit total displayed by the display device in a first payout form and a transfer of a second amount of the certain credit total to a casino account.

In Weiss, the card reader assembly associated with each gaming machine includes a keypad and a display. After the player inserts their player card, the display prompts the player to enter their PIN into the keypad. The gaming account system verifies the PIN and the display shows the player *an option menu*. The option menu includes options which if selected, allow the player to: review their electronic account balance; download a certain amount of funds to the gaming machine from their electronic account; and upload a certain amount of credits from the gaming machine to their electronic account. See Weiss, column 3, lines 25 to 26 ("These options preferably include: balance inquiry, receive funds and return funds.")

This option menu does not enable the player to request both a payout to the player of a first amount of a certain credit total displayed by the display device in a first payout form and a transfer of a second amount of the certain credit total to a casino account.

Referring again to Fig. 8 of Weiss and its related description, if a player leaves their player card in a Weiss gaming machine and credits remain on the credit meter, the player may: (a) transfer the credits to their electronic account through the card reader keypad by entering their PIN; (b) remove their card without transferring credits to their electronic account; or (c) abandon their card. Again, the gaming machine does not enable the player to request both a payout to the player of a first amount of a certain credit total displayed by the display device in a first payout form and a transfer of a second amount of the certain credit total to a casino account.

The Office Action cites column 21 of Weiss, which discloses a payout hopper for redeeming awards at a Weiss gaming machine. (Column 21, lines 13 to 17). First, being primarily directed to a **cashless** gaming system, Weiss does not specify how the pay hopper is integrated into the disclosed gaming system. This language in Weiss regarding the hopper appears to be "canned" language which is not consistent with the whole purpose of Weiss, which is to provide a cashless system where the gaming machines do not directly handle cash, or payouts to the players. Second, just because Weiss discloses an option for a player to redeem credits other than uploading credits to a player account, i.e., the payout hopper or the printing of tickets or vouchers from a

redemption apparatus, does not mean Weiss discloses a cashout menu which enables the player to request both a payout to the player of a first amount of a certain credit total displayed by the display device in a first payout form and a transfer of a second amount of the certain credit total to a casino account.

In Weiss, a player selects the printing of tickets and vouchers at a **redemption apparatus** on a display independent of a Weiss gaming machine or the display menu associated with a gaming machine's card reader assembly. As to the disclosure of the payout hopper, Weiss does not disclose how the player selects payment in the form of the payout hopper, let alone the cashout menu of Claim 1.

The gaming device of amended Claim 22 includes **a cashout menu** selectively displayed by a display device, the cashout menu enabling a player to request **both** a payout to the player of a first amount of a certain credit total displayed by the display device on a ticket and a transfer of a second amount of the certain credit total to a casino account, wherein the first and second amounts are both deducted from the certain credit total. For the above reasons, Weiss does not anticipate Claim 22.

Amended Claim 34 is directed to a networking system for a plurality of gaming devices, said system comprising: a plurality of gaming devices located at a gaming establishment, each gaming device operating a game upon a wager by a player; a server computer and a communications link linking the server computer to the plurality of gaming devices; and a fund transfer account program stored by a memory device, said program executable by the server computer to for at least one of said gaming devices: (a) cause said gaming device to selectively display **a cashout menu**; and (b) enable the player to **both**: (i) transfer a first amount of a certain credit total displayed by said gaming device to a casino account using said cashout menu, and (ii) request a payout of a second amount of the certain credit total in a selectable payout form using said cashout menu, wherein the first amount may be retrieved at a later time and the first and second amounts are deducted from the certain credit total. For the above reasons, Weiss does not anticipate Claim 34.

The method of amended Claim 52 includes the steps of: (a) enabling a player to request a cashout of an amount of a certain displayed credit total including **both** a first

portion of the certain displayed credit total in a first form and a second portion of the certain displayed credit total in a transfer to a casino account, wherein the first form is different than the casino account and both the first portion and the second portion are deducted from the certain displayed credit total; (b) transferring the first portion of the certain displayed credit total to the player in the first form; and (c) during the cashout, transferring the second portion of the certain displayed credit total to the casino account. For the above reasons, Weiss does not disclose this method. Again, regarding the disclosure of other payout forms by Weiss, Weiss does not disclose how a player selects *both* forms at the gaming machine.

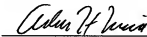
Accordingly, for at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that amended independent Claims 1, 22, 34, 52 and the claims depending therefrom are not anticipated by Weiss and stand in condition for formal allowance.

An earnest endeavor has been made to place this application in condition for formal allowance and in the absence of more pertinent art such action is courteously solicited. If the Examiner has any questions regarding this Response, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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